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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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Wednesday, April 26, 1950

PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Manar, Al Fayha', Al Ba'th, Al Balad, Barada, Al Kifah, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al-Insha', Al 'Alam, Al Hadara, Al Nidal, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, Al-Islah, Al Suri, Al Jabal,

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ARAB AFFAIRS

MERGER OF ARAB PALESTINE AND JORDAN:

Al Kifah observes that King 'Ab dallah has annexed the Arab part of Palestine to Jordan in complete disregard of the wishes of the Arabs and the advice of the Arab League.

The paper adds that were the Jordanian Government to benefit from the annexation it would be justified in its action. The fact is that since May, 1948 Jordan has been controlling and administering the Arab part of Palestine without any opposition or resistance. Consequently, the only motive behind the annexation is the desire to challenge the Arabs and the Arab League and to serve the interests of imperialists.

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The paper concludes by advising the Arab League to deprive Jordan of its membership in the League, irrespective of whatever consequences may ensue.

Al Masa' describes the annexation of the Arab part of Palestine to Jordan as a deadly blow to the Arab cause in Palestine and considers it as another fait accompli similar to that which resulted from the establishment of the Jewish state. The paper adds that there will be no more a problem called 'the Palestine Problem', but a problem of territory occupied and divided between different powers. How can the Arab delegations to the United Nations face the other delegations, if they are asked to locate Palestine on the map? The paper inquires in conclusion as to how the Arabs can have confidence in the Arab League and the Collective Security Pact in which Jordan is a member.

All papers: In answer to the Jordanian note announcing the annexation of Eastern Palestine to Jordan, Premier 'Azm sent yesterday, April 25, the following reply:

"The Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the note of the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the annexation of the Eastern part of Palestine. On this occasion, the Syrian Government affirms that it will stand by the decision taken by the Arab League's Council on April 16, 1950."

Al Manar: The Eastern Newsagency reports that Prime Minister Khalid al-'Azm conversed by telephone with Riyad al-Sulh, the Lebanese Premier, and agreed with him on the text of a cable to be sent in reply to a Jordanian cable received by the two Governments concerning the annexation of the Arab portion of Palestine to the Kingdom of Jordan.

DAWALIBI'S STATEMENT - DR. KABBARAH DISAPPROVES:

The following declaration of Minister Kabbarah was published in Alif Ba', Al Balad, Barada, and Al Fayha. The other morning papers, Al Nasr, Al Manar, Al Kifah, and Al Ba'th did not mention it:

Asked by the Eastern News Agency on his opinion regarding the declarations of his colleague, Dr. Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, the Minister of National Economy, Dr. Sami Kabbarah, the Minister of Interior stated:

"These declarations are purely personal and represent the opinion of Dr. Dawalibi. The Government does not approve those declarations. As far as I am concerned, I consider Dr. Dawalibi's declarations inconsistent with the truth. The Soviet Union is no less responsible than the United States for the fate of Palestine. Russia encouraged the Zionists and supported the partition of Palestine exactly as did the United States. Britain

did not...

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did not support Israel as America and Russia, because the British lost the Jews politically after the Americans won them."

Barada: Dr. Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, the Minister of National Economy, denied that the American Minister to Syria had protested to the Syrian Government against the bombing of the United States Legation.

Minister of Economy Dawalibi added:

"I believe that the fate of the United States of America will be similar to that of Germany. At one time Jewish capital dominated Germany, ruined its economy, and jeopardized its status for the sake of Jewish interests. The Jews have apparently succeeded in altering the true face of America which was once viewed through the perspective of the teachings of Washington and the principles of Wilson. After the Arabs had realized that America was the cause of the Palestine tragedy, they began to view the true face of America covered with a Zionist tarnish."

Referring to the report that President Truman has requested King 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud to use his good offices in an effort to remove him from the scene of Syrian politics, Minister Dawalibi said:

"I believe that this report which originated in Washington is one of the Jewish methods which attempts to prejudice the prestige and interests of America, and to thrust it into the furnace of world indignation, because, if this report is true, it can be considered as an intervention in the internal policy of another nation, especially when this intervention involves the freedom of belief and speech referred to in the Human Rights' Declaration which has been championed by America."

Al Balad- The Prime Minister declared that there is nothing to confirm the report published by Al Misri that President Truman had requested H.M. King 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud to use his good offices in an effort to convince the Syrian Government to remove one of the Syrian Minister(Dr. Dawalibi) from the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister added that if such a request was really made it would be considered as an encroachment on the rights of an independent state and would be rejected by both Syria and Sa'udi-Arabia.

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM:

Al Manar: Reports from France indicate that the the French Government is contemplating a change in policy vis-a-vis the

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internationalization of Jerusalem. France will reportedly give up supporting the internationalization project along with a similar policy adopted by Russia. Such a policy will be announced following the arrival in France of Mr. Boisanger, the head of the Palestine Conciliation Commission.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

BOMBING OF THE LEGATION:

Al Manar: The Eastern News Agency is informed by authoritative and official sources that the judicial authorities questioning of suspects detained in connection with the bombing of the American Legation has not yet confirmed the allegations of the American Legation that the bomb was thrown from outside by unknown persons. The investigation conducted so far indicates that the bomb was not thrown from outside but was planted at the place where the bomb exploded.

The 23 persons who have been detained in connection with the incident have launched a hunger strike since they claim there is no evidence of their participation in the incident.

AN ARAB LADY REJECTS OFFER:

Al Basa': Mrs. Samiyyah al-Mudarris has been nominated to represent Syria in the World Women's Social Activity Conference which will shortly be held in America. Mrs. Mudarris, however, rejected the offer and declared that she did not wish to be entertained by America which has been supporting the Jews and adopting a hostile attitude toward the Arabs. Mrs. Mudarris also called upon Arab women to boycott this conference in order to express the Arabs' hatred for America.

NAZIM AL-QUDSI:

Al Fayha': The Government of Jamil Mardam Bey issued a decision in 1948 prohibiting the sale, purchase, and transfer of Jewish property in Syria. The decision was motivated by a sincere desire to protect the Arabs' interests in Palestine. It remained in force during all the succeeding governments until the present regime in which the Populists are playing a prominent part. Certain members of the family of Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi purchased dirt cheap from Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine the well-known real estate "Khan Duwayk" and other immovable property in Aleppo. After the purchase, the family came to its prominent member, Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi, the heart and brain of the People's Party, the Prime Minister of the 23-hour government, and the Chairman of the Constituent Committee, and sought his good offices to persuade the present government

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to transfer the title of the properties in question to their names. The Government however refused to consent despite all the arguments presented by the Populist minister Hani al-Siba'i.

SA'UDI MINISTER CALLING ON HASHIM BEY:

Al Balad: At 12:00 noon yesterday, the Sa'udi Arabian Minister in Syria conferred with H.E. Hashim al-Atasi for approximately half an hour. No communiqué in this respect has been issued by the Presidency.

T A P L I N E . . .

Al Akhbar: A columnist censures TAPline as follows:

Not a day elapses without further violation by TAPline of the terms of the agreement reached between the Company and the Syrian Government.

The Company promised to employ as large a number of Syrians as possible in laying their pipelines. Instead it has imported machinery to replace manual labor. Furthermore, the Company has imported food on the pretext that it intended the consumption of the employees. It has placed for sale in the Syrian markets in order to hamper Syrian industry.

The Company satisfied the rich landowners and consequently expropriated the properties of the small farmers.

A friend who had the luck to be employed by TAPline related many stories on the Company's ill-treatment of Arab employees. The Company is following a policy based on exploiting the influence and the support of prominent families by simply offering employment to their sons. This policy of employment is an imperialist method aimed at sowing dissension between various classes of people.

The responsible authorities are called upon to revise the agreement concluded with this Company.

AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS:

Al Nasr published an article viewing with grave concern the enlarged staff of the American Legation, the host of officials in the American diplomatic corps in Syria indicates America's increased interest in Syria, a fact which portends great evil,

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since America's previous interest in the Arab world resulted in the establishment of the Jewish state.

The diplomatic representation of the United States in Syria, which is being continuously enlarged, should have raised the suspicions of the Syrian Government, especially after the balance between the Syrian representation in the United States and the American representation in Syria had been gravely jeopardized. the enlarged staff of the American Legation should have induced the Syrian authorities to inquire into the duty, specialization and activity of every American official.

We should like to remind America that it expressed its suspicions and amazement when it found out that the Staff of the Soviet Legation in Bangkok numbered 200 officials. Does not Syria have the right to express greater suspicion and amazement at the presence of 500 American officials enjoying diplomatic immunity?...

It is evident that the Syrian people strongly resent American policy to the Arab world and the fact that the American Government has not taken any measures to change its unjust policy. The relations between America and Syria cannot be described as relations of goodwill. With what argument, therefore, can America justify the enlargement of its Legation staff in Syria. Responsible Syrian officials have more than once expressed their dissatisfaction with American policy. It is hoped that the Syrian Government will request the American Government to reduce its Legation staff in Syria and to make it equal to the staff of the Syrian Legation in Washington and the Syrian Consulate in New York. Washington would do well, were it to find other jobs for the army of its diplomatic officials in Syria.

You are too many. May God reduce your number.

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